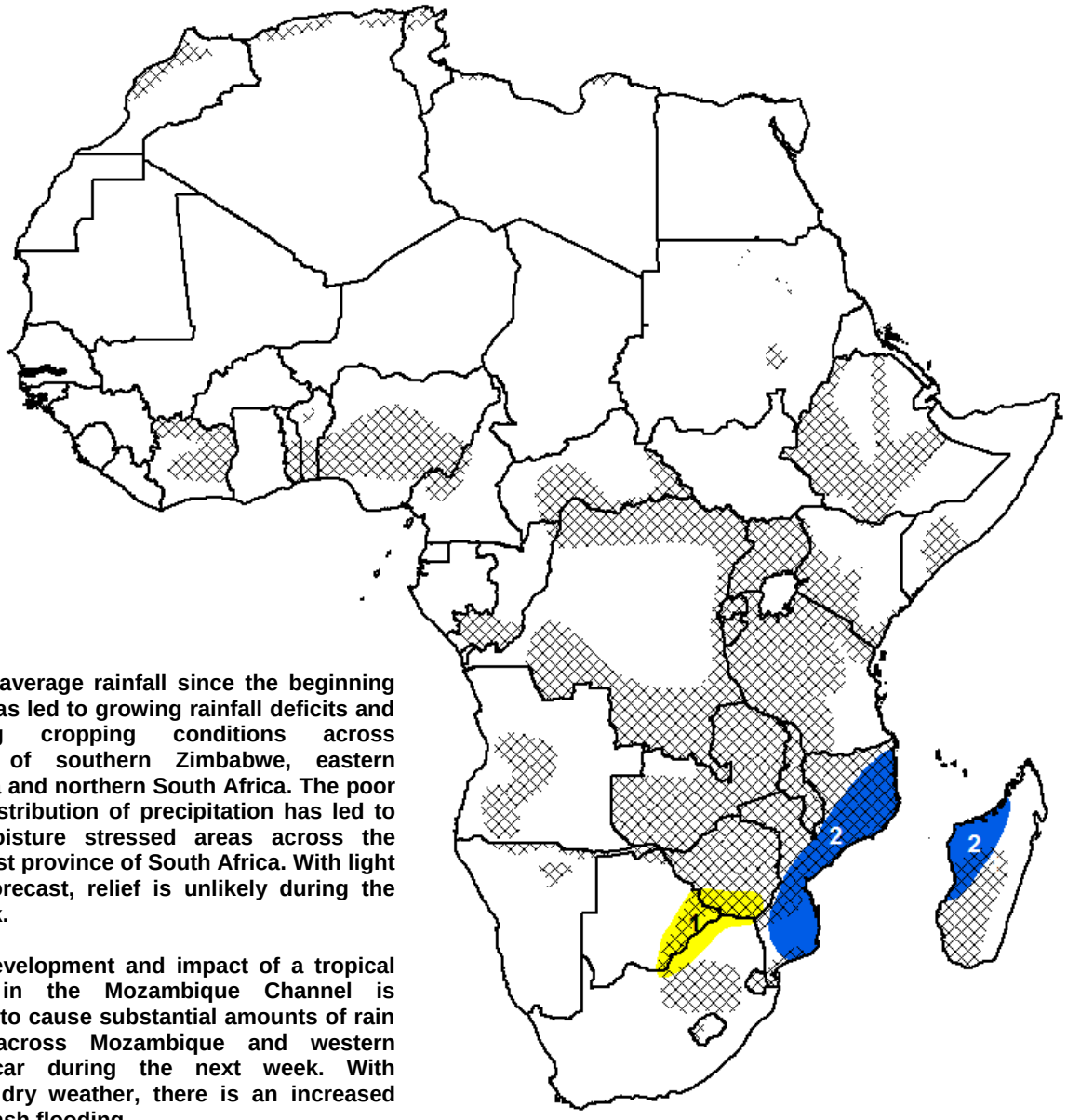
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
March 1 – March 7, 2012

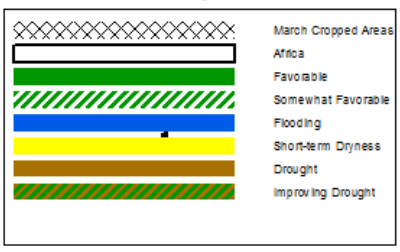
- **An increase in tropical activity in the Mozambique Channel is expected to cause heavy rains in Mozambique and Madagascar.**



1) Below-average rainfall since the beginning of 2012 has led to growing rainfall deficits and degrading cropping conditions across portions of southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and northern South Africa. The poor spatial distribution of precipitation has led to many moisture stressed areas across the North West province of South Africa. With light rainfall forecast, relief is unlikely during the next week.

2) The development and impact of a tropical cyclone in the Mozambique Channel is expected to cause substantial amounts of rain to fall across Mozambique and western Madagascar during the next week. With previous dry weather, there is an increased risk for flash flooding.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Tropical activity impacts areas along the Mozambique Channel.

During the past week, heavy rains (> 50 mm) were observed across Zambia, Tanzania, Angola, Namibia and northern Mozambique. The abundant rains across central and eastern Tanzania provided relief to dry ground conditions after rains had been limited since the beginning of January. The heaviest rains (> 75 mm) were recorded across northern Madagascar and were associated with a developing tropical depression. The rains caused flooding and fatality in northern Madagascar. However, flooding was observed across the northern province of Antisiranana. In contrast, little to no rain (< 15 mm) was observed in central/southern Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana and southern/eastern Zimbabwe (**Figure 1**). The poor rains continued to negatively impact ground conditions.

The above-average weekly rains in Tanzania helped to reduce the spatial scale of the negative thirty-day rainfall anomalies in central areas. However, rains are still 25-70% of normal during the past thirty days. The driest areas in southern Africa exist in the southeast. Below-average rains during much of January and February have led to portions of southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, central/southern Mozambique and northern South Africa to receive only 5-50% of their normal rainfall. Poor ground conditions, associated with the dry weather, have negatively impacted cropping activities in southern Zimbabwe and localized areas in the North West province of South Africa. Below-average thirty-day rainfall (5-50% of normal) has also occurred across western Angola and around Lake Victoria. The dryness in Kenya, though, has provided beneficial land preparation conditions. The largest rainfall surpluses (110-400% of normal) exist across much of Namibia (**Figure 2**).

For the next week, torrential rains (> 75 mm) associated with a developing tropical system in the Mozambique Channel could cause flooding across Madagascar and Mozambique. There is much uncertainty with regards to track forecasts and storm intensity but the risk of potentially heavy rains could reach as far inland as southern Zimbabwe. Previous dry conditions in Mozambique and Zimbabwe will increase the potential for flash flooding. Elsewhere, heavy rains (> 50 mm) are forecast across Angola, Zambia and Tanzania while dry conditions (< 15 mm) are forecast across South Africa and Botswana.

Poor cropping conditions expand in southern Africa.

In an analysis of vegetative conditions across southern Africa, poor, below-average conditions have expanded across southern Zimbabwe, southern Botswana and the North West province of South Africa. The below-average and patchy distribution of rains during January and February have begun to negatively impact crops in localized areas. With little rain forecast over the next week, dry ground conditions are not expected to improve. Below-average conditions are also present across western Angola and around Lake Victoria (**Figure 3**) where rains have below-average.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: February 21st – February 27th, 2012

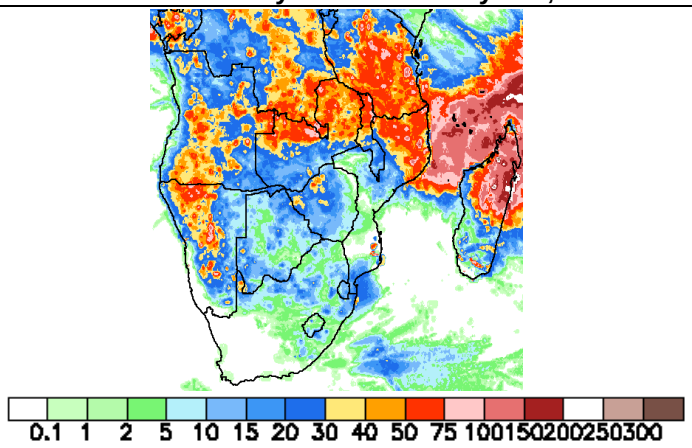


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percent of Normal (%)
Valid: January 29th – February 27th, 2012

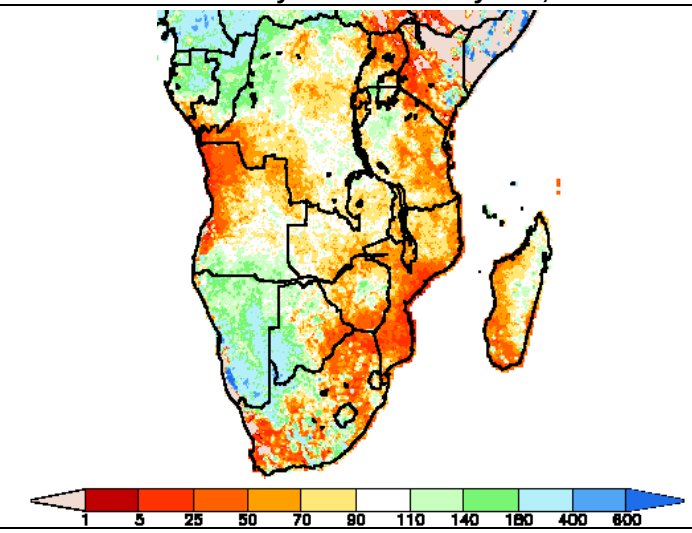


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Anomaly
Valid: February 16th – February 25th, 2012

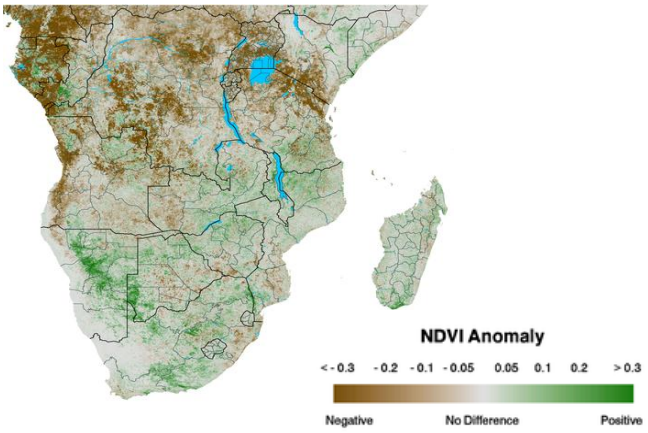


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.